

11/29/76 IRISH RICE  
DDO58 B B R

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

Dear Senator Mathias:

I am pleased to reply to your communication of November 8, requesting on behalf of Reverend John M. Sewell information concerning the arrest of Father Patrick Rice and U.S. assistance programs.

Father Rice, an Irish priest, was arrested on October 11 and is being held by the Argentine Executive. He has received several visits from the Irish Embassy, which is working on his behalf jointly with the Papal Nuncio. It appears likely that Father Rice will be deported from Argentina.

The United States does not furnish economic assistance to Argentina. We do supply military sales credits, which are loans repayable with interest. In addition, a small amount of grant training is provided. These programs provide ready access to the Argentine military and an opportunity to discuss human rights questions, which we do.

I hope this information will be helpful to you in replying to Reverend Sewell.

Sincerely yours,

Kempton B. Jenkins  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

80F178

22/185

The Honorable  
Charles McC. Mathias,  
United States Senate.

Drafted: ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc  
11/29/76:x29166:#0174-1487

Clearances:

ARA/ECA:RWZimmermann

ARA:GLister